

117<sup>th</sup>  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
55 JEFFERSON AVENUE  
JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Birkner called the 117th Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order: "This meeting which conforms with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW, CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board".

**2. FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION:**

The Colors were presented by the Westwood Police Reserves Color Guard. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Pranschke.

**3. COUNCILMEMBERS - ELECT:**

Mayor Birkner announced the receipt of the Certificate of Election for Ingrid Quinn for the office of Councilmember.

Ingrid Quinn was administered her Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Mayor Birkner. Term expiring 12/31/13. Councilmember Quinn thanked her family and supporters. At the conclusion of her remarks, Councilmember Quinn took her seat on the dais.

Mayor Birkner announced the receipt of the Certificate of Election for Robert Miller for the office of Councilmember.

Robert Miller was administered his Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Mayor Birkner. Term expiring 12/31/13. Councilmember Miller thanked his family and supporters. At the conclusion of his remarks, Councilmember Miller took his seat on the dais.

**4. ROLL CALL**

Borough Clerk Hughes called the Roll:

Mayor Birkner - present  
Councilmember Grefrath - present  
Councilmember Miller - present  
Councilmember Phayre - present  
Councilmember Quinn - present  
Councilmember Sciara - present  
Councilmember Waneck - present  
Borough Administrator Hoffmann - present  
Borough Clerk Hughes - present

**5. APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS**

Mayor Birkner entertained motions for the following appointments:

Borough Attorney

**Resolution #11-1: Appointment of Borough Attorney – Russell R. Huntington, Esq.**

Motion: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes  
Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara - Yes  
Councilmember Waneck - Yes

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Borough Engineer

**Resolution #11-02: Appointment of Borough Engineer – Boswell Engineering**

Motion: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre - Yes  
Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara - Yes  
Councilmember Waneck - Yes

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Various Borough Professionals

**Resolution #11-3: Appointment of Various Borough Officials**

Motion: Councilmember Waneck Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre - Yes  
Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara - Yes  
Councilmember Waneck - Yes

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<b>Position</b>	<b>Firm</b>	<b>Designee</b>
Borough Auditor	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins	Gary Vinci, RMA
Risk Manager	Burton Agency	Robert Kanwisher
Public Defender		Christopher Leyden, Esq.
Prosecutor		Edward G. Johnson, Esq.
Bond Counsel	Gluck & Walrath, LLP	Christopher Walrath, Esq.
Labor Attorney	Wiss & Bouregy	Raymond Wiss, Esq.
In-Rem Attorney	Pellegrino & Feldstein, LLC	Michael Pellegrino, Esq.
Comm. Appraiser	McNerney & Associates	Robert McNerney
Resid. Appraiser	Appraisal Systems, Inc.	Rick DelGuercio
Consultant	G. Dietrich Preservation Consult.	Gregory Dietrich

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**6. MAYOR'S DESIGNATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2011**

Mayor Birkner announced the following Council Committee appointments for 2011:

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE CHAIR</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
Finance, Admin. & Cap. Projects	Peter Grefrath	William Phayre
Fire & Ambulance	John J Sciara	Cynthia Waneck
Police & Emergency Mgt.	Robert Miller	John J Sciara
Land Use	Cynthia Waneck	Peter Grefrath

Public Properties  
Health & Recreation

William Phayre  
Ingrid Quinn

Ingrid Quinn  
Robert Miller

7. **SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2011**

**Resolution #11-4: Nomination of 2011 Council President: Robert Miller**

Motion: Councilmember Waneck Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Miller - Abstain

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

8. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Motion to open the Public Forum: Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

No member of the public wished to speak.

Motion to close the Public Forum: Councilmember Sciara

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

9. **BUDGET MEETINGS:**

Mayor Birkner announced that the preliminary work has been done on the 2011 Municipal Budget, and a schedule of Budget Meetings will soon be published in the official Borough newspaper and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Borough website.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Birkner announced that the Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda would be enacted with one motion. Copies of all Resolutions were available to any person upon request. Any Councilmember who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon had the opportunity to do so at this time and said Resolution(s) would be moved and voted upon separately.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions #11-5 through #11-27:**

Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller - Yes

**Resolution Titles**

11-5 OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA  
11-6 TEMPORARY BUDGET

- 11-7 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011
- 11-8 DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS
- 11-9 AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT SIGNATORIES FOR 2011
- 11-10 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES ON CHECKS
- 11-11 ESTABLISHMENT OF INT. RATES ON DELINQUENT TAXES & ASSESS.
- 11-12 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND
- 11-13 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR RECREATION
- 11-14 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
- 11-15 DEPOSITORY OF ATTENDANCE RECORDS
- 11-16 APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER
- 11-17 APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER
- 11-18 MAGISTRATE'S ORDER DESIGNATING VIOLATIONS CLERK
- 11-19 APPOINTMENT TAX ASSESSOR / ATTORNEY - TAX APPEALS
- 11-20 2011 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS
- 11-21 OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS
- 11-22 \$20.00 CHARGE FOR PAYMENTS MADE WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS
- 11-23 \$5.00 CHARGE FOR TAX ACCOUNT REPORTS TO SEARCH COMPANIES
- 11-24 TAX SALE COSTS
- 11-25 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011
- 11-26 MUTUAL AID – PASCACK VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- 11-27 APPOINTMENT OF ACCREDITATION CONSULTANT

#### 11. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Mayor Birkner noted that ordinances are not a normal part of Reorganization. However, the Borough conducted a review and revision of the codebook in 2010. Thanks to the hard work of all the Department Heads, and particularly Construction Official Armand Marini, who did the lion's share of the review work, an updated version of the codebook is ready for adoption. Mayor Birkner continued that introducing these ordinances tonight would expedite the adoption process and allow the revised code to be used as soon as possible.

##### **11-1 An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Borough Clerk**

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #11-1 entitled "An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Borough Clerk" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

**Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading:** Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Councilmember Phayre

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

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##### **11-2 An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Emergency Management Coordinator**

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #11-2 entitled “An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Emergency Management Coordinator” is hereby introduced by title; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

**Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading:** Council President Miller  
Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre - Yes  
Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara - Yes  
Councilmember Waneck - Yes  
Council President Miller – Yes

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**11-3 An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator**

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #11-3 entitled “An Ordinance Regulating The Position Of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator” is hereby introduced by title; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

**Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading:** Council President Miller  
Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre - Yes  
Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara - Yes  
Councilmember Waneck - Yes  
Council President Miller – Yes

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**11-4 An Ordinance Adopting A Codification And Revision Of The Ordinances Of The Borough Of Westwood, County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey; Providing For The Maintenance Of Said Code; Repealing And Saving From Repeal Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Establishing A Penalty For Altering Or Tampering With The Code; And Making Certain Changes In Previously Adopted Ordinances**

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #11-4 entitled “An Ordinance Adopting A Codification And Revision Of The Ordinances Of The Borough Of Westwood, County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey; Providing For The Maintenance Of Said Code; Repealing And Saving From Repeal Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Establishing A Penalty For Altering Or Tampering With The Code; And Making Certain Changes In Previously Adopted Ordinances” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

**Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading:** Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Councilmember Phayre

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

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## 12. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS TO VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICES:

Robert Hoffmann – Affirmative Action Compliance Official, B-MED, B-MEL & JIF Official

Karen Hughes - Assessment Search Officer, Local Ethics Official

Denise Holmes - Deputy Borough Clerk

Letitia Candeloro - Court Administrator

Elizabeth Kraus - Deputy Court Administrator

Rick Woods - Recycling Coordinator, Clean Community Coordinator

Sharon Blehl - Right-To-Know Coordinator, Bloodborne Pathogens Coordinator

Stefanie Stokes – Tax Search Officer

James Gines - Borough Historian

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

## 13. APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS

The appropriate Council Liaison announced the following appointments:

### Board of Health

Lee Tremble, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13

Theresa Lardaro, Alt. #2, 2 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/12

Betsy Beckman, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13

Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

### Library Board of Trustees

Dennis Farrell, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Noeline Grefrath, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Cheryl Chang, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Mayor John Birkner, Annual, Expiring 12/31/11

Carol Mountain, Mayor's Alternate, Annual, Expiring 12/31/11

Geoffrey Zoeller, Annual, Expiring 12/31/11

Jaime Baker, School Supt. Alternate, Annual, Expiring 12/31/11

Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Recreation Advisory Board

Janine Borgersen, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Joan Hluchan, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Don Smith, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Shade Tree Committee

John Russo, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15  
Councilmember Peter Grefrath (Council Liaison)

Safety Committee - (Annual Appointments)

Lt. William Pessler, Safety Delegate  
Richard Woods, Alternate Delegate  
Darren Blankenbush, Member  
Gary Buchheister, Member  
Raymond Herr, Member  
Sylvia Kokowski, Member  
Denise Holmes, Member  
Christine Compesi, Member  
Jack Sauer, Member  
Martha Urbiel, Member  
Robert Hoffmann, Member/Borough Administrator

Local Assistance Board

James Quirk, 4 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Technology Committee

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

William Martin, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Vernon McKoy, Alt. #1, 2 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/12  
Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Historic Commission Board

Linda Salib, Class B, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Peter von Bradsky, Class C, (unexpired term) Expiring 12/31/11  
Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Environmental Advisory Committee

Christine Blaney, 3 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Michael Pessolano, (unexpired term), Expiring 12/31/11  
Kevin Brennan, (Student member, 1 yr. term), Expiring 12/31/11  
Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Website Committee

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Heritage Society

Councilmember John J Sciara (Council Liaison)

Westwood Municipal Alliance (Annual Term)

Roberta Hanlon

Dr. Geoffry Zoeller

Warren Morrell

Jill Carpino

Westwood Parking Authority

Sue Bahng, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Councilmember Robert Miller (Council Liaison)

Planning Board

William Martin, Class II, Annual, Expiring 12/31/11

Dan Olivier, Class IV, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14

Ann Costello, Alt. 1, (unexpired term), Expiring 12/31/11

Vacant, Alt. #2

Councilmember Cynthia Waneck, Class III (Council Liaison)

**14. SWEARING IN OF ALL APPOINTEES**

Motion to accept all appointed noted above: Council President Miller

Second: Councilmember Grefrath

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Aye

Councilmember Phayre - Aye

Councilmember Quinn - Aye

Councilmember Sciara - Aye

Councilmember Waneck – Aye

Council President Miller - Aye

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

**15. APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF POLICE RESERVES**

Mayor Birkner invited the 2011 Police Reservists to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office.

Mayo Credle, Capt.

Damon Vincenty

John Brobson, Lt.

Ann Keenan

Michael Amoruso, Sgt.

Donna Heil

Robert Murin

John Inzalaco

Shawn Yates

Joseph Latino

Arnold Luna

Brian Considine

Shaun Walsh

Kenroy Morrison

Sgt. Matthew McCluthey, Liaison Officer



**16. OATHS OF OFFICES, AMBULANCE CORPS OFFICIALS**

Mayor Birkner invited Capt. Bonnie Costello to the dais to be sworn into office by Judge Karch.

Mayor Birkner invited 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicole Mohr and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Barbara Constantine to the dais to be sworn into office by Judge Karch.

**17. OATHS OF OFFICE, FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS**

Mayor Birkner invited 2011 Fire Chief Christopher Kelley, Deputy Chief Jaymee Hodges, Sr. Captain James C. Mawdsley, Captain James Voorhis, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Carter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William Haffler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Kevin Woods and 4<sup>th</sup> Lt. Michael Griffin to the dais to be sworn into office by Judge Karch.”

**18. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**Presentation to Outgoing Fire Chief Fedorchak**

Mayor Birkner and Council President Phayre presented a plaque to Outgoing Fire Chief Marc Fedorchak. Chief Fedorchak was the Westwood Fire Chief for 2009 and 2010. Chief Fedorchak addressed the audience.

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**Volunteer Emergency Services Hall of Fame:**

Mayor Birkner and Councilmember Sciara presented plaques to Charles Haffler, Volunteer Fire Department, which was accepted by Ex-Chief Fedorchak; and Bonnie Costello, Volunteer Ambulance Corps., which was accepted by Lt. Mohr and Constantine. Mayor Birkner and Council President Miller presented the plaque to Joseph Latino, Police Reserves.

Each of these recipients was nominated by their peers in recognition of outstanding service.

**19. MAYOR’S REMARKS**

Text of the Mayor’s speech is attached.

**20. BENEDICTION**

Rev. Pranschke gave the Benediction.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Sciara Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: All those present vote in the affirmative. The time was 8:20 PM.

Attest:

*(signed) Karen Hughes*

Karen Hughes, RMC

Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes

**Text of Mayor Birkner's Speech Delivered at the  
Annual Reorganization Meeting, January 4, 2011**

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank everyone for being here tonight at the 117<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Westwood Mayor & Council. It is my privilege to extend a warm welcome back for a second term to Council members Quinn and Miller. I very much look forward to working with them again during the upcoming year, and perhaps for a few more after that if the voters decide to keep me around as well. I am confident that together we will continue to keep Westwood moving forward in the positive direction that the governing body has endeavored to maintain.

After three years as mayor I remain humbled to serve our great town. It has indeed been an honor to represent the residents of Westwood, and an absolute privilege to serve with the members of the governing body, the municipal staff, all of the volunteer organizations, and each of the fine individuals that demonstrate daily why Westwood is the outstanding community that it is widely recognized to be.

Three years have gone fast, and in those three years many projects have been completed, many more are underway, some nearer than others to becoming a reality. Three years ago I stated that it was my intention to lead a governing body that serves the residents of Westwood efficiently, and to do so in a dignified and respectful manner. I believe this governing body has done so without fail, remaining on the path of continued positive progress achieved through an open forum for dialog and built upon a healthy transfer of ideas as the cornerstone for progress while effectively carrying out our duties and responsibilities.

Much of that progress is measured by the accomplishments that were made in 2010. Of course no gains worthy of mention could have been achieved without the talented and dedicated employees of the Borough. As elected officials our tenure can be very short lived, and our importance, and sometimes self-importance, over emphasized – but our staff, well they are here day in and day out, performing the services that our residents rely on. To use a baseball term, our employees constantly do the things that “don’t show up in the box score”, going above and beyond on a daily basis to make sure that Westwood works.

Starting out in 2008 and continuing through 2010 this governing body had many short and long-term goals and we proved that by working together with our staff we were able to accomplish these and respond collectively to whatever event came our way.

For Westwood, 2010 began with tragedy. On January 14, 2010, Marine Sgt. Christopher R. Hrbek was killed in action while on patrol in the Helmand Province in Afghanistan. Sgt. Hrbek served a nation that turned its teary eyes to Westwood a week later when he was returned home for eternal rest. The outpouring of love, honor, support, and respect that came from across the United States for this beloved son was unparalleled. As mayor, I am so very proud of our residents for their genuine expression of gratitude for Sgt. Hrbek's sacrifice, and I am also so very proud of our emergency services personnel, DPW and borough staff, and all those who provided assistance to ensure that Sgt. Hrbek would receive the homecoming fitting of a National Hero. These sentiments of appreciation and honor would be carried on throughout the year from January 14<sup>th</sup> and through Memorial Day, the Paramus Freedom Walk, Veteran's Day, and to the dedication of the Westwood Post Office this past November. The events would leave an enduring mark on our community, and Westwood will hold them in our collective heart forever as we will the memories of Christopher, his passion for life, and for the supreme sacrifice he made for our country.

2010 brought to fruition several projects that had been in process for quite some time. At the annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference in November, Westwood was awarded "Bronze Certification" through the "Sustainable New Jersey" program becoming one of only 67 municipalities statewide recognized for promoting responsible environmental management and engaging in conservation practices that lead to cost savings in energy, water and garbage bills. Last month the borough began to implement the recommendations of the recently completed "Energy Audit" of borough properties. It is expected that we will save roughly \$54,000 per year in energy costs simply due to the change over to more energy efficient lighting being installed in our buildings.

2010 saw the successful start of "single source" recycling in the borough. The successes of this program include an increase in recycling by over six (6) tons per month by our borough residents. That means less recyclable materials are being disposed of in the trash resulting in a decrease in tipping fees and lower garbage disposal costs. Additionally, a new garbage contract was entered into with savings to the borough projected to be more than \$240,000 over the first three years as compared to our most recent contract. Gone are the Saturday garbage pickups, allowing for a little more peace and quiet in our neighborhoods on weekends.

Shortly before I took office in 2008, a portion of the main sewer line running alongside of the Pascack Brook became compromised due to decades of erosion. The exposed sewer pipe developed cracks and threatened the drinking water supply of 800,000 Northern New Jersey residents. Westwood has taken the necessary steps to replace and relocate this sewer line and we have finally completed the project. All that remains is some landscaping and minor paving that will be completed in the spring. I would like to offer a special Thank You to the residents who provided access through their properties that allowed this project to be completed successfully. Although there have been some odor complaints during the initial service of the new sewer line, steps have been taken to remedy the problem, and we will be monitoring the air quality to ensure the residents that no impact on their quality of life is due to this new sewer line.

Our Environmental Advisory Committee took shape with an incredibly talented group of volunteers possessing vast professional expertise that helped direct our sustainability initiatives so that those policies will themselves be sustainable and serve as a guide to Westwood's future efforts toward environmental responsibility.

We have progressed in working toward finding a solution to the chronic flooding issues that affect many homes in town. A great start in that direction was accomplished by the work of the Pascack Valley Waterway Management Task force made up of representatives from the ten towns in the Pascack Valley Mayors Association, and includes participation from United Water, and the Hackensack Riverkeeper. By working with our local legislators and securing their assistance we will be able to regionalize our efforts involving stream cleaning, de-snagging and de-silting operations. By applying for permits jointly with other municipalities, and by working with our corporate neighbors and environmental advocacy groups we can more efficiently coordinate the efforts designed to keep water moving freely through the Pascack and Musquapsink Brooks.

Working with our neighboring municipalities will continue in 2011 as we build on the progress of 2010. Westwood has a long history of sharing services with our sister municipalities, from our road re-paving program that has saved Pascack Valley towns over two million dollars during the past three years, to our new electronics recycling agreement with Washington Township, Westwood will actively research and seek new opportunities, both large and small for ways to combine municipal services with the goal of saving taxpayer dollars. We have initiated an informal committee with Washington Township to explore and advance shared services opportunities, and we have been joined by representatives of Hillsdale to discuss additional potential areas of cooperation.

Westwood will be aggressively analyzing all municipal operations for such opportunities. Nothing is off the table for discussion, nothing is off-limits or out of bounds, as we are challenged by new legislation that will force us to reduce costs in order to continue to operate and provide our outstanding level of municipal services while keeping below the mandated 2% property tax cap. This collective process of coordinating our initiatives with other municipalities provides an arena to cultivate ideas for municipal cooperation. We have seen it, we have done it, and it works. Now we must forge ahead and continue the progress. We have an obligation to continue to look at a shared services throughout the Pascack Valley to determine how equipment, specific expertise, and resources can be shared so that we may eliminate duplication of specialized operations and continue to save taxpayer money. I encourage our residents to let us know where you think the greatest savings may be achieved, what you think works in the borough, and how we can improve. After all, it is your town. I would like you to help us make it work better.

With reductions in State Aid, and reduced funding opportunities, the governing body and our finance department worked hard to craft a budget that was sensitive to the needs of our residents. It should be noted that for each of the past three years Westwood has been able to tighten our budgets and introduce only a 1% increase in the municipal tax rate. With no furloughs, layoffs, or reduction in hours of municipal operation, the Borough continues to provide its residents with the high level of service they expect, as we continue to seek more innovative ways to do so while spending less. We have already begun the 2011 budget process, with departmental budgets submitted for committee review. Our line-by-line review meetings have been scheduled with the finance committee and will continue this month.

In 2010 the Borough of Westwood was able to increase its Bond rating from A to AA. This is a significant accomplishment when viewed against the backdrop of the current international, national, and statewide debt crisis and economic climate. This ratings increase represents the first such increase since at least 1975. I applaud our CFO Ray Herr, Borough Administrator Robert Hoffmann, and our borough Auditors for all of the hard work they have put in to help make this possible.

Our police department is always seeking improvement in the way they serve the public, and in 2010 our police department successfully completed the long and arduous process of obtaining CALEA Accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies conducted a final on-site assessment in October, and found no deficiencies in the policies and procedures implemented by our department. This represents a significant professional achievement for our department and the Borough of Westwood. This accreditation certifies that the Westwood Police Department has met specific requirements and prescribed standards to operate by the best practices in law enforcement. There are currently 112 Standards recognized by CALEA for New Jersey Law enforcement, and over the past year, our department has adopted each of them and adjusted our operation to comply with all of the requirements of an accredited agency. My congratulations go out to Chief Regino and the members of the Westwood Police Department who will be recognized for this accomplishment at the annual CALEA conference to be held in Bethesda, Md. later this year.

When this governing body was first assembled in 2008 we began in earnest to develop and put in place a real plan for the reclamation and transformation of Westvale Park from an environmental scar into the premiere sports, and family recreation facility that it should be. We started simply, and by replacing the decrepit, decaying, and dangerous fencing, and making minor repairs to the playing surfaces and surrounding areas, we were able to transform our existing baseball and softball fields at Westvale Park into attractive recreation facilities that we no longer are embarrassed by. The next step in the process was to implement the very first "Recreation and Open

Space” element to the municipal master Plan. That was an important component to our plan, one that was necessary to steer us toward \$ 835,000 in grant funding for our Westvale Park re-birth. I am very proud to stand here today to say that we have now been successful in finally turning over three decades of dreams into a reality. In June we broke ground on a major park renovation. Now six months later, Westvale is no longer “a pile of dirt with grass seed”. Our rock and debris strewn muddy fields have been turned into a clean and safe place for residents of all ages to go for a multitude of recreational activities. The improvements are long overdue. No longer “the dumps”, the Westvale Park Recreation Complex is now comprised of six (6) fully lit athletic and recreation fields including barrier free softball, baseball and multi-sport fields featuring all natural grass playing surfaces, appropriate player and spectator seating, proper drainage, and irrigation. We now have in place a barrier free concession building with a pavilion picnic area, and for the first time a real comfort station with proper sanitary facilities so that our residents no longer will be forced to use port-o-johns, or “the woods”. A new dog park has been installed and additional parking and access to all of the fields have been provided for, all tied together with a brand new re-graded and re-paved pedestrian loop that will soon be connected to the Pascack Brook County Park via a new pedestrian “greenway” alongside the Pascack Brook. Several very generous donations were made to the borough at Westvale. The contractor responsible for building the park, “Let It Grow” landscaping has generously donated a second service window for the concession stand as a thank you to the borough for expanding on the new comprehensive Special Needs Programs offered by our Recreation Department. Downes Tree Service provided additional mulch for the dog run, and four of the Borough’s independent sports organizations have donated a new 30 foot flagpole that will be installed as the finishing touch in time for the official opening of this magnificent park in the early spring. In 2011 we will be installing a new barrier free playground, funded in part by additional grants that have been applied for in 2010.

Improvements to our borough parks have not only been centered around Westvale. Veteran’s Park has begun its new facelift with the installation of a new irrigation system that will help keep the lawn areas lush. A re-design of the walkways will be forthcoming and new security measures have been installed in the park and surrounding the train station. Residents may also participate in the beautification of our parks by purchasing a memorial bench to be placed in one of our parks. Brochures are available at the Borough offices for anyone interested.

Our recreation department has been doing great work and has expanded many programs from our fully licensed children’s day care, summer playground, and children’s special events, to the teen center, and the many adult and senior activities that are scheduled all year around.

These are just a few of the areas that we have been working on in 2010. Much more has been accomplished, but I would need hours to properly address all that has been done. 2011 holds much promise for continued progress in our borough. One of the larger projects that we hope to be able to complete will be the reconfiguration of the intersections along Broadway. Traffic is a major issue around our downtown business district that must be addressed along with upgrades at the railroad crossing and signalization improvements.

Of course our continued energy will be channeled into what I consider to be the most critical issue facing Westwood and the surrounding towns in Northeastern Bergen County. Our most highly publicized challenge has been the fight to re-open a full service, acute care, community hospital in Westwood to replace the former Pascack Valley Hospital. We have maintained our position and brought our points to Trenton. We took our message to the streets, and our voices have resonated throughout the State. Thousands of residents have come out to support the re-opening of the hospital and the fight continues today.

Hackensack University Medical Center has submitted a renewed call for a separate and distinct Certificate of Need for a new hospital in Westwood. While the legal debate continues over the previously existing Certificate of Need, this new tact will allow HUMC to pursue a fresh start in the application process without the legal obstacles that threatened their previous attempts at providing our residents with the safety and security of our hospital. We will know within 2 to 3 months whether the State Department of Senior Services will validate HUMC's request and call for a new Certificate of Need Application. We are on better ground and now I am asking our residents to recharge their batteries and get ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work. We will need all the help possible from Westwood and our surrounding communities to stand up and continue to support the plans by Hackensack University Medical Center to return a full service community hospital to the Pascack Valley. Once the call is made for the application, two new public hearing will be conducted. In June of 2009 over 1400 people attended the local hearing at Westwood High School. I anticipate that the next hearing will again be around the beginning of summer and as of today, I offer my continued optimism that once the Certificate of Need application process is resumed and all of the facts are heard, Hackensack University Medical Center will be approved to open 128 beds for a new Hospital in Westwood. The assistance of our residents has been vital to this cause and we are counting on their continued efforts toward bringing our hospital back in 2011. Like I said, the fight is not over and we can never give up.

In closing, I would say that 2010 has been challenging, but the greater the challenge, the greater the reward. The many small steps forward we have made make progress and add up to great achievements and great hope for the future.

I would again like to thank all of the municipal employees, volunteers, and elected officials that work hard every day to make Westwood special, and why our community is the dear home to so many. I thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. It truly is my privilege and my honor to be here.

Thank you and may God bless you all.